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The Preservation Directorate

Library of Congress
INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Paper Conservation Section Head Doris Hamburg prepares a rare document for treatment in the Conservation Laboratory. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin*

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Henriette Avram to Retire from LC:
Associate Librarian Leaving After More than 25 Years

Henriette D. Avram, associate librarian for Collections Services, has announced that she will retire from the Library of Congress at the end of calendar year 1991.

As the director of the Library's largest department/service unit since 1983, she directs the work of 1,700 positions in 34 divisions, with broad responsibility for the Library's acquisitions, cataloging, preservation and certain research activities.

"From the moment Henriette advised me of her decision to retire, I have been thinking about her extraordinary role in the history of this institution and the library profession as a whole," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. "We are all grateful for her many contributions to the Library of Congress, particularly in the expansion of our technical services into new technologies via the development and standardization of the MARC format and networking.

"She has shared her extensive expertise, wise counsel, wit and warmth in the deliberations of management teams within LC and in the national and international library arena. She leaves a great legacy here not only in the structure and standards of our bibliographic operations, but in the many Library managers and specialists nurtured under her stewardship," he added.

In discussing her retirement, Mrs. Avram said, "The Library of Congress has been a vital part of my life for over 25 years now, so it is with mixed emotions that I announce my plans. In recent years, I have often been asked why I stayed so long. The answer is simple for me—I love the place, but more important, I love the people. I have had the privilege to work with many wonderful people and to share stimulating ideas with them. I shall miss them and the challenges we faced and overcame.

But I realize that there comes a time for change and for one to move on; this is my time."

Mrs. Avram's career parallels the automation of library operations in this institution and worldwide. Following work as a programmer and systems analyst at the National Security Agency, the American Research Bureau and Datatrol Corp., Mrs. Avram joined the Library in 1965 as assistant coordinator of information systems in the Office of the Information Systems Specialist.

Her early work on the analysis of cataloging data ultimately led to the development of a standard vehicle for the communication of bibliographic data—the structure now known as the Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) format.

Her work with the American Library Association, the American National Standards Institute, the International Standards Organization and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) resulted in the establishment of the MARC format structure as a national and an international standard in 1971 and 1973, respectively.

As a consequence, MARC and its international version, UNIMARC, are now used as the basis for library automation and bibliographic communication throughout the world. Mrs. Avram was responsible for the MARC Pilot Project and the MARC Distribution Service, a program in its 22nd year.

The positions Mrs. Avram has held in the Library reflect the increasing importance of automation in the Library's technical services. In 1970 she was named chief of the MARC Development Office, responsible for the design and implementations of automation systems for technical processing operations. As the Library moved to centralize programs to support a nationwide library network, she took the helm of the new Network Development Office in 1976. As part of this effort, the Library of Congress Network Advisory Committee was established; Mrs. Avram has served as its chair since shortly after its inception.

In 1980 she became the Library's first director for processing systems, networks and automation planning within Processing Services. Her role continued with her promotion to assistant librarian for Processing Services in November 1983. Following the 1989 reorganization of the Library, she took on the additional duties of her present position.

The accomplishments of Processing Services/Collections Services under her stewardship include a strategic planning process, the establishment of a technical processing training office, the development of a departmentwide management information system, expansion of automation and cataloging to the Library's overseas offices, and preparation for several major reorganizations to be implemented within the next 10 years, to include the Cataloging and Acquisitions directorates.

Mrs. Avram serves on the board of directors for EDUCOM, the

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Avram *(Cont. from p. 243)*
Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, and the Commission of Preservation and Access, as well as on the Federal Network Council Advisory Committee. In addition to her involvement with the American Library Association and other professional organizations in the United States, she has worked extensively with IFLA, including serving as its vice president and on its executive board.

In the course of her career, Mrs. Avram has been recognized with virtually every honor that can be bestowed on a librarian, including the American Library Association's most distinguished awards: the 1971 Margaret Mann Citation in Cataloging and Classification, the Melvil Dewey Award in 1981 for creative professional achievement of a high order, the 1988 Joseph W. Lippincott Award for distinguished service to librarianship, and the John Humphry/Forest Press Award of 1990 in recognition of contributions to international librarianship.

In 1987 the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions named her to its group of Honorary Fellows. The Special Libraries Association recognized her achievements in the field with its Professional Award in 1990; similarly she received ACRL's Academic/Research Librarian of the Year Award in 1979.

Senate Panel Reduces '92 Library Budget

The Senate Committee on Appropriations reported on June 12 (S. Report 102-81) H.R. 2506, the bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for fiscal 1992, including appropriations for the Library of Congress (see LC *Information Bulletin*, June 17).

The bill as reported by the Senate contains an appropriation of $323,819,000 including authority to obligate $23,279,000 in receipts from the Cataloging Distribution Service and the Copyright Office. This represents a decrease of $3,637,000 from the House-passed appropriation for Library programs.

Under the appropriation heading Library Salaries and Expenses, an appropriation of $197,582,000, including authority to obligate $7,300,000 in receipts, was approved. This is $3,912,000 less than the House allowance. This net total reflects a deletion of $4,870,000 for the mass deacidification program; $1,000,000 more than the House allowance for automation; and funds for two unfinanced positions for financial services not in the House bill. A reduction of $222,000 was made in the request for outfitting the Sixth and East Capitol streets property; funds were allowed for furniture for the child care facility and for a facility manager.

With respect to the deletion of funds for the mass deacidification program, the Senate committee stated that it "wishes to underscore its unqualified committment to the successful execution of this program and expects the Library to include the necessary funding for this project as appropriate in future budget requests."

For the Congressional Research Service, the Senate committee recommended an increase of $275,000 over the House allowance to provide nine months' funding for four unfinanced senior-level positions dealing with science and technology issues.

The remainder of the appropriation accounts in the Senate-reported bill are identical to those in the bill passed by the House, 300–110, on June 5.

The bill now goes to the Senate floor for action and then to a conference committee of the Senate and House for resolution of the differences.

Librarian Seeks Extension Of Film Preservation Board

Dr. Billington June 12 asked Congress to extend the life of the National Film Preservation Board until September 1997 with a focus on "the coordination of national film preservation efforts" while continuing to pick "significant" films each autumn.

The Librarian testified before the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property and Judicial Administration of the House Committee on Judiciary. He asked that the 1988 National Film Preservation Act, which expires Sept. 27, be reauthorized but amended to take the Library and the board out of controversial decision-making on "moral rights" and labeling of films to indicate alterations.

"That is not appropriate work for the nation's library," Dr. Billington said. "The Library should be charged with securing original copies of important films, preserving films, and promoting film as an American art form."

Echoing the Librarian was screenwriter Fay Kanin, former president of the Oscar awarding Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, whom Dr. Billington appointed as head of the 13-member board. She told the subcommittee that the 1988 act gave her particular pride as the government officially recognized motion pictures as "an indigenous and significant American art form."

The Librarian urged greater attention to film preservation, noting that 50 percent of all films made before 1950 and 80 percent of all films made before 1930 have been lost forever. The Library's own preservation efforts have accounted for half of all the old film saved in the United States.

The subcommittee is chaired by Rep. William J. Hughes (D-NJ).

'Liberty's Library':
Global Library Project Begins Second Season

"A knowledge-based democracy requires a nucleus of organized knowledge that is unrestricted and uncensored by the church or state. In the United States, the Library of Congress is the 'Library of Liberty.' With nearly 100 million items in over 400 languages, the Library organizes, preserves, protects and shares the treasures and artifacts of world history, beliefs, music, science, trends and culture."

So said Jeanne Apostol, director of the Global Library Project, a joint cable television series sponsored by the Library and Mind Extension University. Ms. Apostol was referring to the theme of the second season of shows she is producing for cable television on the Library. The shows will explore subjects ranging from the world's great libraries to the emergence of a free library in Czechoslovakia.

" 'Liberty's Library' also refers to any library that upholds the principle of free and equal access to information and ideas without prejudice or discrimination," she continued. "The freedom to read, learn and understand the world around us is embodied in a public library."

Although the new series' theme is different from last year's—"Treasures of the Library of Congress"—its overall goal remains the same: "We want to inspire people to use their own library. The people we are trying to reach aren't just those who use libraries often, but also those who haven't been to a library in 10 or 20 years," Ms. Apostol said.

Ms. Apostol is also trying to build support for libraries nationwide. She views the current situation, in which many cities and school systems are closing libraries, as a "crisis. California has closed half of its school libraries. It's shocking! Can you imagine going to school and not having a library? I believe they are taken for granted."

"The freedom to read, learn and understand the world around us is embodied in a public library."
—Jeanne Apostol, Global Library Project Director

The shows, which now reach 12 million households, are expected to reach 20 million by year's end. For the first time, subscribers to Washington's District Cablevision will be able to see the new shows, which air on Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

The schedule for "Liberty's Library":

☐ **"The Dreamkeeper: Oral Tradition, the Printed Word & Democracy."** First air date: Sept. 11.

This show begins with a look at the origins of mass communication. Before the ability to disseminate knowledge to the masses, knowledge and information were passed on from one human being to another and from one generation to another through visual images and the spoken word. Cave paintings, sign language, oral history and tribal elders—the dreamkeepers—were the information sources of the agrarian preindustrial age.

The program will examine how libraries can help citizens make informed choices about their government today.

☐ **"The Global Library."** First Air date: Sept. 18.

This program celebrates the diversity of the collections of the great libraries of the world, past and present.

☐ **"The Library of Congress: Treasure House of World Culture & Democracy."** First air date: Sept. 25.

The show will look at the global reach of the Library of Congress, including the treasures of U.S. history and the founding of the country.

☐ **"Thank You, Mr. Jefferson."** First air date: Oct. 2.

The reopening of the historic Main Reading Room. Highlights include the visit of Queen Elizabeth II, an architectural tour and a brief time travel segment in which the congressional debate about the acquisition of Jefferson's library for LC will be re-created.

☐ **"Democracy and Beliefs."** First air date: Oct. 9.

This program examines the moral, ethical and religious roots of American democracy. It will look at the

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The Library held a luncheon for members of Congress in May to preview the renovated Main Reading Room, which opened to readers June 3. Joining Dr. Billington were Sen. Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, and Charles Rose, vice chairman.

Global Library *(Cont. from p. 245)* Library's collections of religious books, recordings and other materials, and examine why, in a country that cherishes the separation of church and state, it is appropriate for Liberty's Library to acquire and preserve our heritage of beliefs.

☐ **"Libraries and Justice: Protecting Rights and Making Laws."** First air date: Oct. 16.

This program looks at the role of law libraries and the lawmaking process in a democracy. Highlights include the Library of Congress Law Library (with its Rare Books section on world laws); how libraries are used in legal research and the Congressional Research Service—the "brain trust" of the legislative branch.

☐ **"Equal Access for All: Libraries and the Public."** First air date: Oct. 23.

This program examines the difficult choices public libraries must make as they weigh their responsibility to provide equal access for all against their defenselessness against social problems such as homelessness, joblessness and latchkey children.

It also looks at how librarians have been at the forefront of protecting their collections from censorship, seen as the first encroachment on a citizen's right to free access to information.

☐ **"Democracy's Students: Critical Thinking and Citizenship."** First air date: Oct. 30.

An education-based democracy requires nurturing from generation to generation, and civic education can impart a value system to young student/citizens. The informed "consent of the governed" requires critical thinking skills, which help democracy's students evaluate their choices as voters and individuals. Libraries, with their distinct bodies of organized knowledge and points of reference, offer the best venue for learning to "think critically."

☐ **"You Are There: The Birth of the Free Library in Czechoslovakia."** First air date: Nov. 13.

The Berlin Wall has fallen, and Eastern Europeans are doing all they can to rid themselves of the reminders of Soviet domination. East Europe is rebuilding its cultural institutions and opening the collections of its national libraries for the first time. Technical assistance and funds are desperately needed.

The Global Library Project will travel to Czechoslovakia to talk to President Vaclav Havel, and to visit the national library—to compare libraries in the free world with libraries in closed societies.

☐ **"Opening the Gates to Knowledge: The U.S.S.R."** First air date: Nov. 20.

The Global Library Project travels to the Soviet Union with Library of Congress Russia specialist Abby Smith, to witness the reconstruction of the Academy of Sciences Library in Leningrad after the great fire in 1988, and to show how LC is cooperating with the Lenin Library at the request of the Soviet government, helping it make its collections more accessible to the public.

☐ **"Discs, Networks and the Library of the Future."** First air date: Nov. 27.

A look at the newest and best library and information technology, along with a qualitative evaluation of these seemingly miraculous inventions.

Computers can do more work, faster; they can store and retrieve more documents, more quickly, but is the information they provide really better and more useful than what's inside the mind of a reference librarian?

This program looks at LC projects such as American Memory, on-line cataloging, optical disc programs and the MARC system.

☐ **"The Best of Liberty's Library."** First air date: Dec. 9.

The final program explores the main theme of "Liberty's Library" as addressed in the previous programs.

The Preservation Directorate:
Saving the Library's Legacy

By John Sullivan and Jennifer Johnson

When we walk into a library for a book, we expect it to be available, in good condition, with all of the pages intact. This is the way it once was. Today it is not always so.

Compare paper produced before the Civil War with paper made only 50 years ago and see how much better the earlier paper withstood the test of time. Since the 1840s, when wood pulp was introduced as an alternative to cotton rag to make paper on a larger scale, most of the manufactured papers contained acid and that contained the seed of their own destruction.

Deterioration has set in worldwide. In libraries from Atlanta to Zanzibar, many books are brittle, crumbling to the touch, and therefore virtually worthless to those who want to read them.

About 25 years ago, the Library formed one organizational unit that would be responsible for protecting the collections from deterioration and extending their useful life. Today the Preservation Directorate is considered the leading library preservation facility in the world for its treatment of books and the conservation of rare printed, manuscript and visual materials.

Statistics gathered in 1984 indicated that more than 70,000 volumes in the Library's collections annually move from the "weak" to the "brittle" category. About 25 percent of the 13 million volumes in LC's general and law collections are too brittle to withstand normal handling without risk of damage. Multiply the Library's figures on a national scale, then exponentially on a global progression, to deduce that the state of book longevity in the world is alarming. But this is only one of the problems facing preservation experts.

Because of the need for duplicating and preserving information materials, new technologies are constantly being developed, but will they meet the needs of libraries? And who can make the decision to select one method over another to preserve our cultural heritage for the next generation? Preservation scientists tell us that because of deterioration of the item, it is unlikely that we will be able to read the original copy of our favorite newspaper if it is 20 years old, or view a videotape we made of some special event only 10 years ago or make prints from photo negatives only a few years old.

Think of the possibility of loss of all the information and entertainment now on film and videotape. Fortunately, many award-winning feature films and documentaries on nitrate film have been successfully duplicated, and others remain in good condition in special storage vaults. On the other hand, many institutions have custody of nitrate motion picture films that can no longer be transferred onto more stable safety film. Research and experience have recently shown that safety film used today for photographic negatives, motion picture film and microfilm will also deteriorate if not stored under favorable conditions. How about our old 33⅓, 45 and 78 rpm recordings? Are they going the way of everything else?

Can we depend on any medium to stand up to the ravages of time and neglect? What are the solutions? Are there reliable and solid answers? The Preservation Directorate is addressing these and other difficult questions through the activities of the Preservation Research and Testing Office, the Binding Office, the Conservation Office, the National

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Barbara Meier-James of the Conservation Office uses the scope to analyze the condition of pigment in a rare manuscript. *Photos by Yusef El-Amin*

Ken Harris (left), director for preservation, discusses a project with Robert Lisbeth, executive assistant.

Preservation *(Cont. from p. 247)*
Preservation Program Office and the Preservation Microfilming Office. Of the directorate's 117 budgeted positions, about 80 percent are filled.

The Library's director for preservation, Kenneth Harris, said, "The largest library in the world has a responsibility matched by an institutional commitment to provide meaningful leadership in the preservation of our nation's material culture." He added that "the Library has the curatorial expertise to make the difficult decisions about what to preserve and the technical expertise among our staff to tackle the problems intelligently." The Library uses state-of-the-art preservation technology.

"We tend, logically, to concentrate available preservation resources on those materials that are at the greatest risk of loss," Mr. Harris added.

He does not think the problems are insurmountable. Rather, he sees the challenges as opportunities for the library and archive communities. And opportunities, he says, "are usually disguised as hard work. Our challenges don't disappear, they just change from one generation to the next."

He believes the commitment to saving information recorded on paper-based materials will continue to gain public and institutional support, but that "the emphasis on traditional preservation activities will probably shift somewhat, as it must, in coming years from paper to other media."

Libraries and archives worldwide, he said, are necessarily turning to systemwide approaches to planning and implementing preservation programs and are "in step with modern management practices in their emphasis on preservation techniques that are increasingly utilitarian. By that, I mean we are all interested in applications such as mass deacidification [see LC *Information Bulletin*, May 6, 1991] and collections conservation that promise economies of scale."

According to Mr. Harris, the Library is examining the usefulness of other emerging technologies, such as paper strengthening and optical disc storage. Though optical discs are not yet characterized as an archival-quality storage medium, he believes they are "one of the newest and most promising mediums for copying images. Disc technology, like other reformatting approaches such as microfilming, can serve a useful preservation purpose because it permits us to retire copied materials from use. Unlike microfilm, it also promises to offer more convenient access to information."

How can he be so positive? Said he: "Fatalists would probably say that time is our worst enemy. I'm as aware as the next person that the future always struggles against being mastered; but I'm convinced, in this age of technological frenzy, that we'll continue to discover and invent new solutions to old problems and to new problems, and that the preservation challenges facing libraries can be addressed and brought under control."

Binding Office. Maintaining books and other publications involves the application of boards and covering materials to provide adequate protection for the paper text block during both handling and storage. For this reason, Mr. Harris refers to the Binding Office as "the front line of the Library's preservation efforts."

Binding functions at the Library date back to 1900. The operation came within the purview of the Preservation Directorate barely 25 years ago. All new books, pamphlets and serial volumes acquired for the general collections go to the Binding Office to be inspected, labeled and prepared. Serials, pamphlets and unbound and paperback monographs are bound. Books already in the collections whose bindings are damaged or have deteriorated also go to the Binding Office, where skilled personnel evaluate the book's condition and determine whether repair or a new binding is needed.

Binding Officer Bill Underdue said that "plans for the future include the use of automation to improve program efficiency." He also recalled

that the role of the office has changed radically since the days when a branch bindery of the Government Printing Office, maintained in the Library, performed bindery functions, repaired manuscripts and handled maintenance for the general collections.

Today the Binding Office prepares Library materials for shipment to commercial binderies; and, except for rare items, all binding is done by contract. The office staffers prepare traditional library materials for shipment by selecting the appropriate binding for each item and maintaining records on orders shipped and received.

Books sent to a commercial bindery are bound using a combination of hand and machine methods, following strict Library specifications. When the books are returned, their bindings are carefully checked for performance quality and printing errors. Staffers affix bookplates, emboss pages to indicate Library of Congress ownership and label the spines with call numbers. A single mistake in the printed call number can result in an item being forever lost on the shelves.

Mr. Underdue added, "We also plan to increase the number of on-site repairs to the general collections by the use of mobile units." Because many general and non-rare volumes are repaired (but not bound) in the Binding Office, specially equipped mobile repair units could systematically check the reference collections and repair materials on-site by identifying the books that need repair as well as those that require immediate binding or microfilming.

In Mr. Underdue's 41 years at the Library he has seen many advances in preservation techniques. For example, he has seen new bindings increase their longevity even beyond the lifetime of the text block within the book. The turnaround, off-shelf time for serials and bound books has been reduced significantly—from six months to as long as one year—to only four to six weeks. This helps Preservation better achieve its twin missions: preserving ideas and improving access to them.

The bindery operation now processes approximately 250,000 volumes per year. Mr. Underdue added that his office often contracts for books, music scores and maps, which do not lend themselves to binding, to be housed in protective boxes. In addition, the office identifies many items which, based on the condition of the paper, should be microfilmed rather than bound.

When the Library's mass deacidification program gets under way, the office will be heavily involved. All new books meant for Library shelves will pass through the bindery operations, and those not printed on alkaline paper will be sent to a deacidification facility, while both new and old deacidified books will be returned through the office.

Conservation Office. Only 20 years old, the Conservation Office is one of the better known proponents of the Library's role of preserving the nation's cultural heritage. Its Conservation Laboratory is one of the largest such facilities in the world and is regarded as one of the finest of its kind. The office has in-house training programs and internships that accept trainee apprentices from all over the globe. The staff perform exacting and specialized work that ranges from treating items for normal wear and tear that are simply old and fragile to dealing with those that have been victims of disaster.

Peter Waters, who heads this operation, sees the Library's preservation program at a pivotal point in its history. This is because it is faced with choosing the best strategies for slowing the rate of deterioration, a rate which varies considerably among the Library's collections. Said Mr. Waters: "I would like to see all of the Conservation Office staff in the future actively involved in the decision-making process regarding the relative merits of preservation technologies, especially those dealing with mass treatment systems, alternative approaches and machine-readable systems."

According to Mr. Waters, a broad-

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Checking orders of brittle volumes to be filmed by the Library's Photoduplication Service are (from left): John Giron, bibliographic librarian, and preservation microfilming processors Sara Somosky and Dennis James.

Preservation *(Cont. from p. 249)*
based, multifaceted approach is needed, with enough flexibility for change as new and improved technologies are tested and made available. He believes the Library should seek advice from a wide range of technical experts, plan realistic preservation strategies and set future policy while looking at new technological advances and their applications to preservation.

But the Library is not the only institution facing preservation woes. Mr. Waters compares figures from the great 1966 flood of Florence with those from the 1988 fire at the Library of the Academy of Sciences in Leningrad. He notes that, after 19 years, 60 Italian restorers have completed work on only 75 percent of the 80,000 damaged rare books at the Biblioteca Nazionale. Using similar estimates of work needed to restore 200,000 rare books damaged by fire and water at the Academy of Sciences Library, 250 restorers would be needed to complete the work in 20 years. Such specialized manpower and resources are unavailable in the Soviet Union.

So the Library of Congress has recommended, and the Academy Library has agreed to, a phased preservation approach. This will provide a much-needed microclimate housing for the damaged collections as a first priority. Additional treatment phases will be decided on the basis of need, which will assure restoration of the collection, but over a long period of time.

LC's Phased Conservation Operation, headed by Lage E. Carlson, is dedicated to decreasing the rate of deterioration of an important collection by treatment in stages, rather than employing a one-time, once-only treatment. Phased conservation of library and archival materials begins with essential first-step protective care and preventive maintenance activities, environmental controls, rehousing of the materials, washing or deacidifying, mending, encapsulation and boxing. The idea is to provide attention to a large number of items within a collection. The program is designed to buy time until additional staff and funding become available and priority for further action is determined.

Mr. Waters was a member of a three-person emergency consulting team of top fire and water disaster experts called in to assist the Academy Library. The team made recommendations on effective ways for the Library of Congress and others to help. LC later sent another delegation; its task was to work out a joint program of agreements between the two libraries and to determine how fast recovery should proceed and plans for future action. The Library of Congress is still very involved in preservation efforts in Leningrad and recently made an initial shipment of a new type of mass customized boxing.

This development will provide precisely fitted micro-climate book containers that will require little or no increase in storage space. Analysis of the first 21,000 book measurements taken at the Academy Library demonstrates that there is no uniformity in size. The boxing technology makes it possible to produce individual, custom, clam-shell book boxes that add less than 3mm to each book thickness; and, because the damaged books are slightly compressed an average of 3mm during the measurement process, the need for additional shelving is virtually eliminated.

The Conservation Office's handwork is carried out in the three sections of the Conservation Laboratory: rare book conservation, paper conservation and phased conservation. The staff's task is to stabilize both the physical and chemical condition of rare materials, to minimize continuing deterioration and, as much as possible, to repair individual artifacts. When materials come to the lab, conservators examine each piece, document its condition and propose appropriate treatment consistent with the item's structure, history, current condition, "artifactual" value and expected use.

Book conservators, under the

Donald Sebera (seated), senior chemist in the Research and Testing Office, and Frank Hengemihle, research chemist, apply strips of paper to a fold-endurance machine to test the strength of various types of paper.

direction of Tom Albro, deal primarily with single items, either printed rare books or manuscripts. The style of restoration for a work is dictated by its age or period, employing the use of special fine-quality paper, thread and covering materials. Full treatment of an item may include cleaning, washing, deacidifying, resewing and rebinding.

Paper conservators, guided by Doris Hamburg, usually treat flat or unbound items, such as documents, prints, maps and manuscripts, and decide on appropriate treatments, which may include removal of old adhesive backings, dry cleaning, deacidification and mending. Some items can be preserved by leaf-casting—filling in missing areas of a document with pulp fiber compatible with the original—or by polyester film encapsulation.

The Conservation Laboratory determines priorities using an hourly point system, which is based on need and equitable conservation attention. The system operates on allocations made annually to the various custodial collections and is monitored by computer. Conservator liaison people work with each participating division and assist with planning and coordination. In addition, the lab assists the Interpretive Programs Office with the many exhibits the Library mounts each year.

National Preservation Program Office. The United States is young compared with many other nations, yet its written heritage continues to age and deteriorate at an alarming rate. The Library of Congress, recognizing the worldwide need to preserve library and archival materials, has promoted preservation activity in the United States as well as abroad since 1984 with its National Preservation Program Office (NPPO).

NPPO uses various approaches to encourage the development of local, regional and national initiatives. As an information clearinghouse, NPPO staffers respond to thousands of requests for preservation information each year—from other libraries, national associations, Congress and the public. NPPO maintains close contact with national organizations and other federal agencies. It urges those groups to continue development of a nationwide preservation effort involving individual libraries and archives, the states and the federal government.

Through NPPO, the Library is also host to an international program sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The IFLA Core Program on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) disseminates information around the world through a network of regional centers. NPPO has helped set up international outreach programs in Tokyo; Leipzig, Germany; Caracas, Venezuela; Sable, France; and Canberra, Australia. Merrily Smith, assistant National Preservation Program officer, said, "The Library of Congress intends to act as a facilitator to keep these regions current and up-to-date on what's happening in library and archives preservation."

The NPPO's specific functions are:

☐ **Education.** The Preservation Reference Service responds to general preservation inquiries from the public and technical questions from other libraries and associations.

Bindery Office technicians Calvin Bushrod and Annabelle Fiasco review thousands of volumes in the shelf preparation unit.

Staff coordinate and participate in workshops and seminars and consult with individual repositories, regional and state programs, and professional groups. In association with IFLA and its PAC, National Preservation Program Office staff are developing programs to heighten awareness of preservation worldwide.

☐ **Coordination and Liaison.** To strengthen the Library's role in national preservation planning, staff arrange for Library participation in cooperative programs to preserve brittle books, including discussing issues such as standards for filming and bibliographic control.

To further its goals, the National Preservation Program Office serves as a liaison office among the Council on Library Resources, the Association of Research Libraries, the

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Preservation *(Cont. from p. 251)*
Office of Preservation at the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Research Libraries Group, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and the National Information Standards Organization, as well as other groups

☐ **Cooperative Preservation Microfilming.** Large-scale preservation microfilming at the Library makes an important contribution to an emerging national preservation program. The coordination of this activity with other libraries and organizations reflects a continuing commitment to save deteriorating materials.

☐ **Intern Education Program.** Advanced training through formal internships in the Library's Preservation Directorate have been available on a competitive basis in the fields of conservation, conservation science and preservation administration.

Because the Library's programs to preserve its collections are a model for other libraries, dissemination of current information on evolving technology, policies and procedures is important to the growth of the preservation field. Said Ms. Smith: "I would like to see our office become the facilitator, to act as a conduit and to assist those asking for our guidance. But now is the time for the states and other countries to step up and take the initiative. They realize their needs, and many have made considerable progress."

Preservation Microfilming Office. A special preservation project was launched in 1967 to identify and process deteriorating materials for preservation microfilming so the best possible copies could be made available for use by future researchers. The Library's Preservation Microfilming Office (PMO) was created a year later, and since that time PMO policies and procedures have become a model for similar microfilming programs throughout the country.

PMO's mission is to preserve the intellectual content of brittle and deteriorated materials from Library collections through preservation reformatting, primarily to microfilm. Although the major activity in the office is to prepare books for filming by the Library's Photoduplication Service, it also recommends repair, replacement or withdrawal of damaged or mutilated materials. To conserve funds and avoid duplication of effort, staff check to determine whether a brittle book is available at the Library in reprint form or in another format, or if another research library has already microfilmed it and made it available for purchase.

The office also maintains close contact with custodial microfilming projects throughout the Library and carries out cooperative filming projects with other libraries.

Brittle books are identified through reader use, by custodial units and through the inventory of the collections. In determining treatment, PMO searches bibliographic records and catalogs to avoid filming items that are already available on film or in reprint. The office also works closely with Library recommending officials and curators on selection issues to assure that material that has "artifactual," artistic or special research value is retained after filming. The Library often retains significant illustrated and oversize pages or maps from deteriorated volumes that have been microfilmed, and they are available to researchers. Care is given to produce a replacement film that is even more complete than the brittle book by borrowing missing pages or issues from other institutions.

Said Preservation Microfilming Officer Tamara Swora: "Curators from the several custodial divisions often identify the need for filming and preserving certain items, and we provide the necessary technical guidance to determine how the items are to be treated. They then recommend what must be preserved and retained, and what should be discarded."

After a book has been microfilmed, PMO staff prepare a catalog record. This new record becomes part of the Library's bibliographic data base, thereby alerting patrons to the fact that the book's contents

Ercell Terry prepares a binding in the Rare Book Conservation Section.

are available on film. These records are also available to other libraries through the Library's machine-readable cataloging (MARC) distribution services. Approximately 3 million to 6 million pages a year are prepared for microfilming. Books are checked for correct order of pages and completeness, and bibliographic and technical targets are prepared to identify material and assist the users of the microfilm. The completed film is checked for technical quality and returned to PMO with the original book for a bibliographic edit. After the film has been accepted, the original master negatives are then placed in acid-free boxes and stored in a fireproof vault under archival standard storage conditions; service copies are made for public viewing or for purchase.

In addition to the office's primary responsibilities, PMO has processed material from collections that are often unique to the Library, such as large collections from the European and Hispanic divisions, the Russian Imperial Government Publications Collection and the Portuguese Pamphlet Collection. PMO has several longstanding cooperative filming arrangements with other institutions, including the New York Public Library and the libraries at Harvard and Columbia universities; and since 1983 PMO has worked with the Research Libraries Group Cooperative Microfilming Project. Added Ms. Swora: "I believe that in the near future we'll have more librarywide input and improved collaborative efforts in both planning and execution of microfilming projects."

One such example is the immense U.S. Telephone Directory Project, which was a year in planning with the New York Public Library. States have also been asked to participate in this multiyear project in which some current directories as well as retrospective ones will be microfilmed.

Preservation Research and Testing Office. The Library's Preservation Research and Testing Office (R&T) continually breaks new ground and changes the scope of worldwide preservation practices. Established in 1971, R&T was created to provide scientific and technical support for the Library's preservation program and to seek solutions to the problems of permanence, durability and long-term preservation.

R&T scientists research the chemical and physical makeup of various media and their mechanisms of deterioration. Basic research also helps to determine standards in such areas as conservation treatment, environmental control and preservation supplies.

The R&T facility consists of a spacious main laboratory and three smaller, specialized laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art scientific equipment. Because these scientific research laboratories develop innovative procedures and processes, their work has a considerable impact on other libraries and archives.

In the mid-1970s R&T scientists developed a gaseous mass deacidification process that deters paper deterioration. This process has been licensed to a private chemical company. It is now one of the commercial processes in the private sector competing to provide deacidification treatment on up to 20 million Library books within the next two decades. Such a process is imperative, as LC is inundated with books containing acidic paper. Harmful acids can turn pages yellow and brittle in as little as 25 years, making the book unusable. This acidic paper was developed during the 19th century as new high-speed printing presses created a need for inexpensive wood pulp paper. Acid damage to this type of paper is irreversible, but deacidification slows further deterioration and can extend the paper's useful life for hundreds of years.

Acting Preservation Projects Officer Gerald Garvey believes that contracting for mass deacidification to extend the life of the Library's vast collections on paper "is one of the most important activities in which the Preservation Directorate is now engaged."

During the past year, performance-based specifications were issued to solicit proposals from contractors for deacidifying the book collections. Proposals have been received and are under evaluation by a panel of experts, including Library administrators, conservators, engineers and scientists. Mr. Garvey said that the panel will submit its findings this summer, when the Library hopes to contract for mass deacidification services to begin in 1992 and extend, for an initial five-year period, through 1997.

Other R&T developments include the formulation of polyester film encapsulation for the protection of fragile paper and the use of methylmagnesium carbonate for nonaqueous deacidification of paper. Chandru J. Shahani, research officer, said, "Our interests are wide-ranging. They must be, because our research and testing pursuits include looking at new methods of preservation to match the Library's diverse collections and their problems."

The R&T scientists are actively involved with national standards-setting groups in the promotion of more stable media and environmental conditions that extend the life of library and archive collections.

One project explored the impact of microenvironments, or small storage enclosures. The effect of ethylene oxide, a controversial fumigant, on books, photographic film and audio records was studied. Future projects may explore the stability of a variety of digital information storage media in the hope of finding a permanent solution.

Mr. Sullivan is a public affairs specialist in the Library's Public Affairs Office and Ms. Johnson is an intern in the office.

☐ **Columbus Quincentenary Curator Receives Award:** Ida Altman, associate professor of history at the University of New Orleans and curator for the Library's 1992 exhibition "1492: An Ongoing Voyage," received the Herbert E. Bolton Memorial Prize for her 1989 book *Emigrants and Society: Extremadura and Spanish America in the Sixteenth Century.* Awarded annually for the best book published in the field the previous year, the prize was conferred in December 1990.

☐ **Three LC Publications Selected as "Notable Documents" of 1990:** Of the 20 federal documents chosen by the Notable Documents Panel of the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) as "excellent sources of information, pleasure, and inspiration" in 1990, three of them were published by the Library of Congress. No other federal agency had more than two of its publications so honored.

Kudos to all of those at the Library who contributed to the excellence of the following works selected by GODORT this year: *3 Decades of Television: A Catalog of Television Programs Acquired by the Library of Congress, 1949–1979,* compiled by Sarah Rouse and Katharine Loughney; *To Make All Laws: The Congress of the United States, 1789–1989,* by James H. Hutson; and *Washingtoniana: Photographs; Collections in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress,* by Kathleen Collins.

☐ **Speaking of LC Publications:** The Library is publishing a number of new books in the next few months that will be of great interest to a variety of audiences. The booklet that is published biennially with information about which LC publications are currently in print, *Library of Congress Publications in Print: 1991,* has just been released. The 1991 edition was prepared by Edward Cambio, General Reading Rooms Division. It is free upon request by writing to Library of Congress, Office Systems Services, Printing and Processing Section, Washington, D.C. 20540.

Coming later this month is the new history of the Main Reading Room by Josephus Nelson and Judith Farley, *Full Circle: Ninety Years of Service in the Main Reading Room.*

Finally, the new *Performing Arts Annual,* which is due out very soon, features articles on film music; silent screen scripts; live stage productions in some of the great theaters of New York; remembrances of life in a road company of the 1920s, traveling from California to Utah in one-night stands; and the popularity of American country and western music around the world. The latest *Folklife Annual* is expected in the fall.

☐ **Crazy Over "Girl Crazy":** The first ever complete recording of George and Ira Gershwin's "Girl Crazy," which was released last fall on the Elektra-Nonesuch label as part of the new Leonore Gershwin-Library of Congress Recording and Publishing Project, has been drawing rave reviews in the music/recording press. The May–June issue of *Fanfare* says, "Everything has been done right: it's a joy to listen to, and a smashing start to a new venture. For once, scholarship, professionalism, casting, creative improvisation and above all love and respect for the material have come together." *Stereo Review* honored the compact disc with its 1991 Record of the Year Award, and the Netherlands gave the CD its Edison Award.

☐ **Patron User Card Meets with Wide Acceptance:** Beginning June 3 with the reopening of the renovated Main Reading Room, all patrons who wish to use any of the Library's collections are required to submit a photo identification to gain access to LC materials. If the reader is to be working at the Library for more than a day, he or she is issued a Patron User Card, which is valid for use in any of the Library's reading rooms.

"We've been pleasantly surprised," says Joseph Puccio, Collections Management Division, "with how well the card has been accepted by readers." He added that although there have been a few complaints, most patrons come into the reading rooms eager to obtain a user card. The program has been running very smoothly, with cards being issued to readers as soon as they present an acceptable photo identification.

☐ **Dewey Award Goes to LC Staffer:** Lucia J. Rather, retired director for cataloging, is the 1991 recipient of the American Library Association's Melvil Dewey Medal. The award is given to an individual or group for recent achievement in librarianship.

—*Helen Dalrymple*

Robert Saudek Takes His Second Retirement

Robert Saudek's retirement at the end of May as chief of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, was, as he pointed out, his *second* "retirement."

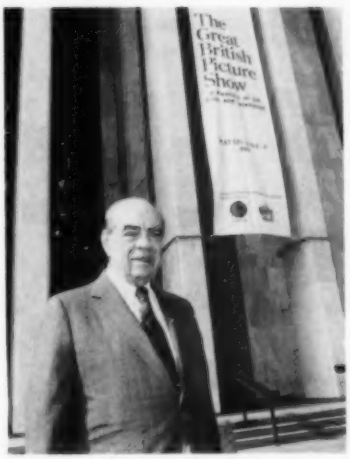
"I retired once before, 10 years ago," Mr. Saudek said in an *Information Bulletin* interview during his final week here. Mr. Saudek's previous career in radio and television broadcasting included many accomplishments: he has been a radio network official at NBC and ABC, vice president for public affairs at ABC during the 1940s and director of the TV-Radio Workshop for the Ford Foundation during the 1950s.

During this time he founded Robert Saudek Associates, which produced the legendary television series "Omnibus," with some 160 programs, nearly all of them live. He went on to produce "Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic," "S. Hurok Presents" and "Profiles in Courage." He introduced TV audiences to Leonard Bernstein, Peter Ustinov, Kenneth Clark and comedy duo Mike Nichols and Elaine May, among others. The show garnered 11 Emmy Awards, four Peabody Awards and the Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association. In 1975, Mr. Saudek became president and chief executive officer of New York's Museum of Broadcasting, from which he "retired" in 1981.

"I had always looked forward to retiring—when I did, it was not that interesting," he said. "Then, [Librarian of Congress] Daniel Boorstin asked me to apply [here]. I had found I wasn't crazy about retirement. . . . Now I could look forward to retiring again—that's the part I always liked."

How was the transition between retirement and employment at LC, and from the private to the public sector? "I spent a lifetime doing a number of things, all of which I really enjoyed," he said. It's been an extraordinarily rich and interesting life." But "coming from the private sector to the public sector was a considerable switch, mainly in the rigidity of [government] rules and regulations.

What were some of the more interesting aspects of LC? "After 60 years in broadcasting and films, this was a new way of looking at film: preservation and cataloging of films and motion picure technology. Here, we save, keep, preserve, catalog—a vastly different way of looking looking at film and recording." Always, there was "something new to learn." The performing arts field—motion pictures, television, radio, recordings—Mr. Saudek pointed out, is "different from the printed page. With a book, one must imagine the characters and scenes. Moving to sound, one still is one's own stage-manager, but real voices and sound effects help. With motion pictures, images are predetermined; the story is told by the actors, the casting director, the designers, the cinematographer. We are told what to think. And all of these wonders are wrapped up in wonderful reels of film."



Saudek was instrumental in bringing the British film festival to the Library. *Photo by Reid Baker*

His advice for the future? "We must increasingly use and enhance our projection facilities." Since Mr. Saudek's tenure in M/B/RS, the Pickford Theater yearly averages some 170 evenings of screenings, together with related exhibits and festivals, of which the recent "Great British Picture Show" tallied 103 offerings.

"We are not being paid to be embalmers," at the Library, he stressed. "We must show the films, not bury them alive. We must encourage showings, give them the breath of life."

When he came to the division, Mr. Saudek found people with great knowledge of film and recorded sound. But there were still gaps to be filled in the collections. "We began with a great effort to go after the comic material," he noted. Later, the NBC radio and TV collection netted some 175,000 programs. Collections of foreign broadcasts and films also needed some close study and attention: acquiring films by Fellini and Rossellini, for example. There were no New Wave films from France; from the Soviets, no Eisenstein. LC soon aquired 650 of the most important British television programs, and 5,000 BBC Radio programs. Greta Garbo films were missing. "We later acquired 24 Garbo features prints through MGM and Ted Turner."

On his "wish list" is to see LC "bring back the Dayton Motion Picture Conservation Center to the East." He urged that there be a "major effort in motion picture technical research and development, not relying on any individual company's word, with the best minds doing the best things."

On this "second retirement": "I will be sleeping till 8. I will be staying in Washington."

—John J. Wayne

Foreign Interns Give International Dimension to Program

LC staffers don't often get the opportunity to work with colleagues from overseas. But the interns in the 1990-91 program did just that.

The participants from Asia, Africa and the fringes of the Arctic added a new dimension to the Intern Program. This was only the second time that foreign applicants were accepted. Chosen from a large pool of foreigners, these interns contributed their expertise in overseas librarianship. They are: Dudu Fadkuze from the National Library of Swaziland in Mbabane; Kakugyo Chiku from the Kanazawa Institute of Technology Library in Nonoichi, Japan; and Gudrun Karlsdottir from the University of Iceland Library in Reykjavik.

A native of South Africa, Dudu Fadkuze is Swazi by marriage. She has a B.A. and library science degree from the University of Zululand, South Africa, and an M.A. in library and information science from Loughbourough University, Leicestershire, England.

Ms. Fadkuze became a librarian almost by accident. The political situation in South Africa derailed her plans to become a social worker. Faced with a lack of career opportunities after the 1976 riots, Ms. Fadkuze chose library science, a program she completed in one year. About her work, she said, "I enjoy retrieving information for readers when they need it. And I especially like working with current materials such as periodicals." As a librarian for a newspaper in Soweto, she observed events in South Africa firsthand.

Marriage to a Swazi led her to the Swaziland National Library, where Ms. Fadkuze is the senior librarian, responsible for administering the library's 13 branch offices and assisting the director. She is a widow with two sons, who stayed in Swaziland.

Because of her interest in management and technology, Ms. Fadkuze was eager to spend time at LC. "With the Library of Congress on my resume, I can get a job anywhere in southern Africa," she said. She received strong support from her director, Ben Kingsley of the Swaziland Ministry of Education, which paid her travel expenses, and the U.S. Information Agency, which arranged a grant for her living expenses in the United States.

Fadkuze came from Swaziland, Karlsdottir from Iceland and Chiku from Japan to be a part of the LC Intern Program. *Photo by James Glover*

Ms. Fadkuze said she is "impressed with the systematized, well-organized workflow and with the energetic staff members who are really involved in their work" at the Library. In Africa, she says, the library profession is new, people are just beginning to go to library school and there is a severe shortage of trained staff because those with training leave the continent for higher-paying jobs elsewhere.

One problem that Ms. Fadkuze's home library and LC share is a large number of arrearages. But the Swaziland National Library faces grave problems that LC staff can hardly imagine. When heavy rains turn the country's unpaved roads into mud, the branch libraries cannot get the proper forms to the banks so that staffers can be paid. If the country's sole bookmobile breaks down, repairs at the government-run garage can take a month.

Since beginning the Intern Program, Ms. Fadkuze has enjoyed working in the African-Middle East Section of the Order Division. While there, she translated a glossary of terms used in the book trade into Afrikaans, Zulu and Xhosa and has updated mailing address lists for exchange partners in Africa. She plans to work in Overseas Operations identifying sources of Swazi collections in North America and to assist an Africa specialist in the Law Library.

Ms. Fadkuze's impressions of the United States are mostly positive. "Americans," she said, "are very warm, the warmest people I have ever met in my travels. They always go out of their way to help."

Kakugyo Chiku, a native of Toyama, a coastal city in central Japan, has a B.S. in architecture from Kogakuiu University and a B.A. in philosophy from Toyama University. He also earned a Ph.D. in the history of architecture from the University of Tokyo. He is director

of the Subject Librarian Division at Kanazawa Institute as well as a professor of the history of architecture. Aside from these duties, he has found time to write four books, two about architecture and two about rare books in science and technology.

Mr. Chiku's wife and three children stayed behind in Japan, so he explored Washington on his own. Much of what the city has to offer matched his interests in observing architecture, reading philosophy and history, going to art museums and listening to live music, particularly jazz.

Mr. Chiku was nominated for the Intern Program by his library director, Mr. Yasushi Sakai, a former deputy librarian of Japan's National Diet Library, the Library of Congress's Japanese counterpart, which has strong ties to the older American institution.

When he arrived in Washington, Mr. Chiku was amazed by the Library's size and complexity. The Library of Congress, he said, "is more like a think tank than a traditional library. It analyzes information as well as providing it." He also thinks the inclusion of some offices, such as Copyright, is unusual for a national library because in Japan separate organizations supply such services.

According to Mr. Chiku, the Library's size is both its best and worst feature. "Because of its size the Library can encompass every aspect of culture and be a universal collection," he observes. "On the other hand, it is so large and complicated that people can lose their way."

Mr. Chiku divides his time among the Asian Division's Japanese Section, the Congressional Research Service's Japan Task Force, and the Prints and Photographs Division, where he works with architectural photographs and drawings.

During the mid 1980s, he spent 2½ years at MIT doing research in the history of technology on a special grant from the Kanazawa Institute. "I find it very exciting to get to know different cultures" Mr. Chiku said, adding that he "likes the different points of view and perspectives" he encounters in the United States.

According to Mr. Chiku, America's emphasis on individuality is the culture's most attractive characteristic, whereas the culture in Japan favors consensus. Paradoxically, he sees America's emphasis on personal freedom as a source of problems, notably drug use and the lack of gun control laws.

Ms. Karlsdottir grew up on a ranch in Stora Borg in rocky northwest Iceland, an area where some of the ancient Icelandic sagas took place. Said Ms. Karlsdottir, "My father used to tell these stories and many others to me, and they became as real to me as if I had been part of the Viking age myself." At the University of Iceland, where she studied Icelandic and German language and literature, Ms. Karlsdottir "by mere chance took a few library courses. I discovered by surprise how rich and rewarding the librarian's occupation can be. While at university, I had odd jobs as a secretary, teletypesetter, proofreader and teacher, but now I felt that I had found my vocation. I enrolled in Strathclyde University, Glasgow, Scotland, where I earned a postgraduate diploma in librarianship."

"I knew that very moment [when receiving information on the Intern Program] that this was the opportunity I had been waiting for. It is not every day that such an opportunity is within reach, an opportunity to spend almost a year in the largest library in the world."

As head of the Cataloging and Classification Department at the University of Iceland Library, Ms. Karlsdottir has been involved in planning for the merger of the University Library and the National Library of Iceland in 1994.

In addition to producing a number of professional publications, Ms. Karlsdottir, with several other women, founded a small press in Iceland that specializes in science books for children.

When information about the Intern Program came to Ms. Karlsdottir's library, she said, "I knew that very moment that this was the opportunity I had been waiting for. It is not every day that such an opportunity is within reach, an opportunity to spend almost a year in the largest library in the world."

What impresses Ms. Karlsdottir most is "how independently the Library of Congress acts and how self-sufficient it is." She has surveyed and recommended additions to the Law Library's Icelandic collection and worked with Scandinavian material in the Order Division.

Avid travelers all, Ms. Karlsdottir and her family are enjoying being in the United States. She finds Americans' openness to strangers a "charming feature."

All of the foreign interns have found the program a rewarding way to learn about the Library of Congress. Dudu Fadkuze has appreciated the opportunity to acquire knowledge that she could not get at home and has found the management training segment particularly valuable. Like Dudu, Mr. Chiku believes that the Intern Program is "a good way for an outsider to learn how the Library works." He added, "I have enjoyed the opportunity to compare the Library of Congress's operational and managerial style with those of its Japanese counterparts." Ms. Karlsdottir thinks that including foreign libraries in the Intern Program gives "very valuable support to international cooperation and understanding."

—Martha Hopkins

The author, from the Library's Federal Research Division, was an intern.

British Folklorist Delivers Lecture to Overflow Crowd

Some 400 teachers, librarians, folklorists, collectors and book sellers, as well as writers and illustrators of children's literature, gathered at the Library on Friday, April 19, to hear the 1991 May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture. Hosted by the Children's Literature Center, the lecture was delivered by British folklorist, collector and anthropologist of childhood, Iona Opie.

The Montpelier Room was filled to capacity, with overflow guests having to watch the lecture on a monitor in an adjacent room. One couple came from Utah; another woman traveled from St. John, Virgin Islands; and yet another missed the opening of the New York Antiquarian Book Fair for the first time in years so that she might hear Mrs. Opie speak.

Established in 1969 by Scott, Foresman and Co., the annual lecture honors May Hill Arbuthnot, an authority on literature for children. Administered by the Association for Library Service to Children of the American Library Association (ALA), it is presented each year in a different location by an outstanding author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children's literature.

The Children's Literature Center of the Library of Congress was the host for this year's lecture, marking the first time the event has been held in Washington. Other groups in the Washington metropolitan area, including the British Council, local public library systems, area library schools, a local organization of children's writers and illustrators as well as national publishing houses, joined the Children's Literature Center in supporting the 1991 Arbuthnot lecture.

Opie signs a book for Mary Child, former director of the Children's Book Council.

Patricia Strickland, 91-year-old volunteer in the Children's Literature Center, receives a nosegay of spring flowers from Kathleen Sullivan in honor of her work as a writer and editor, as Sybille A. Jagusch, chief of the Children's Literature Center, and Margaret N. Coughlan, reference specialist, look on. *Photos by Jim Higgins*

Iona Opie, who describes herself as having always been interested in "the origins of things; of beavering about, looking for strange, out-of-the-way information," spent her career and much of her life with her late husband, Peter, collecting the artifacts of children's games and investigating the origins of nursery rhymes and the games of childhood. Their collaboration continued for 40 years, collecting and writing, until Peter's death in 1982.

The Opies collected children's books, toys and games as a means of gaining "imaginative access to the past lives that they were studying." Their collection was divided in 1988, when Iona Opie presented some 20,000 children's books to the Bodleian Library at Oxford University in England. A 1989 volume, *The Treasures of Childhood: Books, Toys and*

Among those responsible for the annual Arbuthnot Lecture are (from left): Marilyn Berg Jarusso, chair, Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Committee, ALSC-ALA; Sybille A. Jagusch; Iona Opie; Barbara M. Barstow, president, ALSC-ALA; Winston Tabb, acting deputy Librarian of Congress; and Susan Roman, executive director, ALSC-ALA.

Children's Lore: Excerpt from Arbuthnot Lecture

Before we go any further, perhaps I should remind you of the difference between private, creative play and the traditional games that have survived through countless generations. Both may be going on in the same playground, though creative play exists best at home. The private play of children contains a small grain of that sublime harvest reaped by artists, composers, dramatists, poets and novelists, and provides the same rich satisfaction. But whether it is an entrancing game for one, played by a four-year-old who mutters away to himself as he plays it, or whether it is a family game of make-believe—of giants and princesses, perhaps—that continues and evolves over many years of childhood—it is highly unlikely that the game is sufficiently structured or inventive enough to be handed down to future generations of children. The fun, indeed, lies largely in the inventing.

Traditional games, on the other hand, have survived because they are efficacious. They were once played by adults and children alike—the adults being the skilled exponents and the children, on the fringe of the community, watching and copying. (You have only to attend the annual marbles championship on Good Friday, at Tinsley Green in Sussex, near Gatwick Airport, to appreciate the skill in a so-called children's game when it is played, as it used to be, by adults.)

Through centuries these games have fulfilled all the requirements of human recreation: the exuberant pleasures of running, leaping and throwing; the more precise skills of aiming and hitting; the otherworldliness of singing and dancing in a ring; the excitements of guessing, of chasing and catching, of hiding and seeking, as well as those more basic needs, such as the need to exert oneself, mentally and physically, as a proof of being alive, and an anaesthetic in times of stress. . . .

Most of the major games played by children today were once played by young adults, and still are on occasion. Knucklebones was a common amusement for women in classical Greece; it is, for instance, a favorite subject of the pottery groups found in the graves of Tanagra. Nowadays the game is most often called jacks, and instead of knucklebones or pebbles the instruments used are those spiky metal objects invented in the United States and first mentioned by W.H. Babcock in an article on "The Games of Washington Children," 1888.

Games from the Opie Collection, highlights some of the gems of the collection, many of them books of great rarity. Their collection of toys, games and other trappings of childhood remains at their home, Westerfield House, Hampshire, in the possession of Mrs. Opie.

Together Mr. and Mrs. Opie wrote a number of books, including *The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes* (1951); *Lore and Language of Schoolchildren* (1959); *A Family Book of Nursery Rhymes* (1964); *Children's Games* (1969); *Children's Games in Street and Playground* (1969); *The Oxford Book of Children's Verse* (1973); *The Classic Fairy Tales* (1974); and *The Singing Game* (1985). *The Singing Game* won the Katharine Briggs Folklore Award, the Rose Mary Crawshay Prize and the Children's Literature Association Book Award.

In an interview a few days after the lecture, Mrs. Opie talked about her current book, *The People in the Playground*, which is based on 14 years of weekly observations at her local school playground. She discussed the striking differences between girls' and boys' games, and said that boys and girls tend to segregate themselves on the playground. "Girls play games with movement and words; they must enjoy the union of songs and movement." Thus, she noted, they play games like jump rope, or ring games and games that involve clapping and singing. "Boys are more aggressive, competitive; one of their amusements is messing up girls' games."

One of the things the Opies discovered in their research into children's games is the durability of the games they play. The characters may be updated to fit the times (Shirley Temple was very big a decade or two ago), but the basic rhythms and movements go on and on. As she said with a twinkle in her eye, "You don't need to have new games, you have new children," as the children grow older and their younger siblings and friends pick up where they left off. —*Helen Dalrymple*

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